Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0026] with the following amended paragraph:

[0026] As illustrated in Figures 2 and 3, the identification mechanism 2 includes a sensor for detecting an identification code, namely a fingerprint reader 5, which is preferably a CCD sensor. The housing 3 also houses an accumulator 6, which is charged through a charging contact 7 or in another suitable manner, such as inductively. The fingerprint reader 5, an RF transmitter ~~11 (of which only~~24 including the antenna ~~is illustrated)~~11, an LCD indicator 12 and the other electronic components of the identification mechanism 2 are controlled by a microprocessor 9 which is included on a printed circuit 8. A function key 13 is provided on the identification mechanism 2 and is configured to indicate the name or the picture of the authorized user of the weapon on the display 12.

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] The microprocessor 9 has a store where the fingerprint pattern of the authorized person, or other identification code, is stored. The microprocessor 9 is configured as a comparator which compares the input fingerprint with the stored fingerprint. When the fingerprints match, the transmitter ~~11~~24 sends an activating signal 16 to the weapon 1 (Figure 1).

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following amended paragraph:

[0029] The weapon 1 includes a module 20, on which a receiver 25~~(of~~ which ~~only~~includes the receiving antenna 17~~—is illustrated)~~, and a microprocessor 18 are included. The microprocessor 18 is configured to activate the weapon 1 upon

receipt of an activation signal 16, thus placing the weapon 1 in a state of readiness to fire. The weapon 1 is placed in this activated state by the unlocking of an electromechanical locking mechanism (not illustrated) or a similar safety mechanism.

Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following amended paragraph:

[0031] The transmitter ~~11~~24 in the identification mechanism 2 continuously emits signals 19 toward the receiver ~~17~~25 in the weapon 1 for the distance measuring function. When the field strength of the signals 19 received by the receiver ~~17~~25 is less than the field strength of the signals 19 which the receiver ~~17~~25 receives when the transmitter ~~11~~24 of the identification mechanism 2 is at the specified maximum distance A from the receiver, the microprocessor 18 deactivates the weapon 1, thus placing the weapon in a state in which it is prevented from firing.

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph:

[0032] A battery 21 supplies current in the weapon 1. A wake-up circuit is housed in the microprocessor 18, which turns on the microprocessor 18, the receiver and the other electronics in the weapon after receipt of an activation signal 16. The circuit is configured to turn off these components when continuous signals 19 are no longer received or when the signals 19 received from the receiver ~~17~~24 have a field strength below the minimum field strength.

Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following amended paragraph:

[0034] To facilitate indication of the charge state of the battery 21, the transmitter ~~11~~24 and the receiver ~~17~~25 can each be configured as a sending and receiving system. This will allow the weapon 1 to transmit an answering signal to the sending and receiving system in the identification mechanism 2 once it is activated after receiving an activating signal 16. Thus a return signal will be transmitted by the weapon 1 to the identification mechanism 2 confirming the state of the readiness of the weapon to fire.